

The Edito

Editorial

Good People Deserve a Little Press, Too

There's no question that bad people, bad incidents, and controversial subjects dominate the news. That's because most people obey the law most of the time, and live rather quiet, non-offensive lives. Only uncommon people, incidents, and subjects make the news. Kindness and good deeds are too common around Wasatch County to be newsworthy.

We'd like to take a refreshing break from editorializing on controversial subjects and salute the average, law-abiding people in our community who accomplish many good things, but whose accomplishments aren't great enough or uncommon enough to merit space as news.

At first we intended to name some of the examples we know about. But it might be best to just generalize so that we don't leave a thousand or so unnamed who are just as worth of mention. We hope our generalized tribute to good people will remind our readers of those they know and, maybe, move them to personally say thanks.

We have organized volunteers, like the Pink Ladies at the county hospital and Search and Rescue, who we'd prefer not to need, but we're awfully glad they're around for when we do need them. There are church organizations that mobilize to promote good causes or take care of people in need. There are civic organizations that take on community projects that would not otherwise get done.

Many people just sense the needs of their friends and neighbors and quietly try to help, going out of their way to make life a little nicer for somebody else. They're the ones who show up with a plate of cookies when you move onto their block, bring over a casserole or clean the house when mom's sick, shovel snow off the walks for people who have a hard time doing heavy work, take the kids off your hands when you're dealing with a personal tragedy, or just stop by for a minute to see how you're doing when you're in the hospital or laid up at home.

As we drive around we notice planters on the streets and the landscaping around the library that volunteers have contributed to make our community look nice. Historical monuments are being restored by volunteers dedicated to preserving the heritage of our county. Parents contribute time to help our schools by participating in PTA projects or helping teachers.

And we mustn't forget to appreciate the people who are paid to serve us, but who put forth extra effort to help beyond their job descriptions. Some examples that come to mind are the cops, firemen, EMT's, nurses, who hang around a little longer than their jobs require to offer some extra comfort, perhaps a bit of counsel, and generally show sincere, personal concern for the people who need them. Cashiers who do their best to make you feel at ease when you're short a dollar, drop and break bottle of mayonnaise, discover you're out of checks, or fumble through a stack of coupons, would make the same money per hour if they just stood there and let you suffer your embarrassment. We're astounded at how many people in this county will leave their homes to repair something at night or open up their stores on Sunday afternoons to help somebody out of a fix, without charging extra.

Maybe you who are natives take those sorts of things for granted because that's the way it's always been around here. But we transplants from big cities can tell you about being lonely in the midst of millions of people, being treated rudely by people who are hired to serve, and seeing communities go to pot because there's no money and no one will volunteer.

There are a lot of new things effecting this county



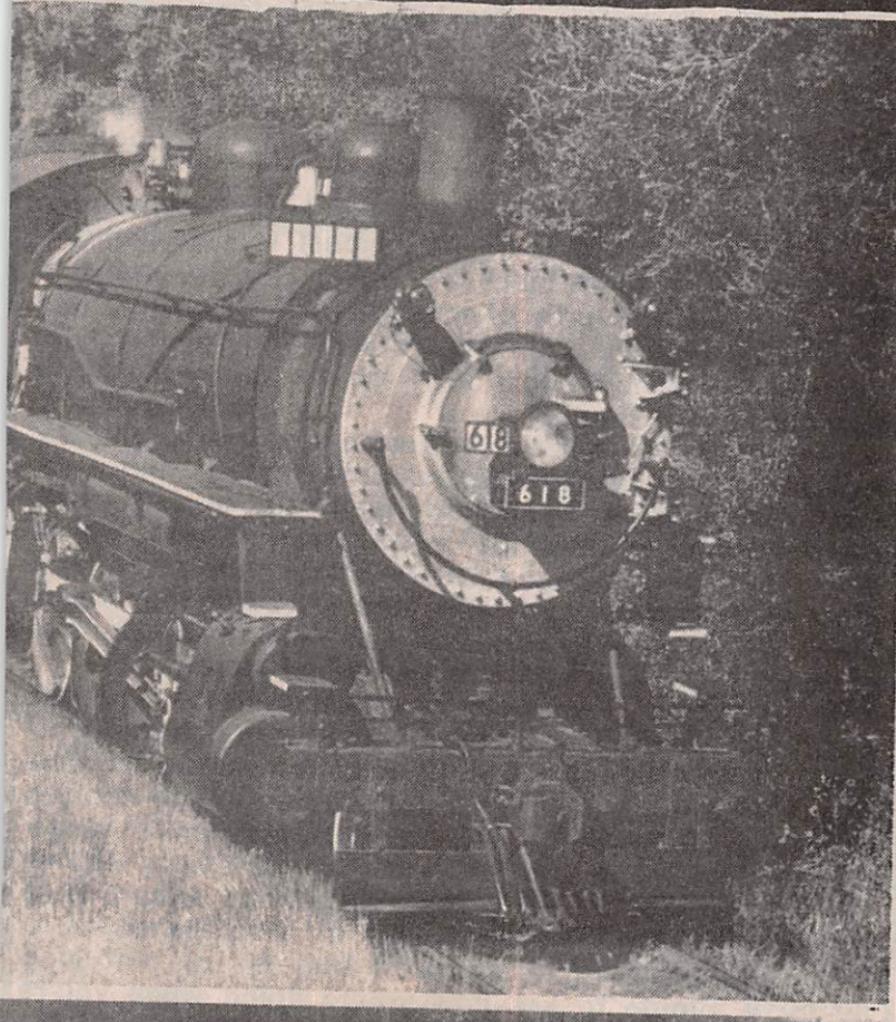
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Years First Chimney Fire Causes Only Smoke Damage

The first chimney fire of the year in Wasatch County, last Thursday morning, caused only

discovered where he had dropped it inside the store, because the em-